tions of the Committee are under consideration.

Car advance to MPs and other officials

4339. SHRI INDER KUMAR GUJRAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the amount of car advance at present admissible to (i) Members of Parliament, and (ii) Officers of Central Government;

(b) whether Government propose to increase the amount of advance in-view of steep increase in the price of vehicles ever since present ceiling was fixed;

(c) what are the objections to increase the amount of advance particularly when in the case of purchase of new cars almost 25 per cent of the price of the car ploughs back to Government in the form of excise duties and taxes etc.

(d) what is the rate of interest presently charged on these advances; and

(e) whether the rules provide any bar in enhancing the rate of recovery of payment of part of advance in lumpsum after the instalments have originally been fixed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKARA MURTHY): (a) In terms of the provisions of the Members of Parliament (Advance for the purchase of conveyance) Rules, 1986, made under the Salary, Allowances and Pension of Members of Parliament Act, 1954, a Member of Parliament is entitled to a maximum amount of Rs. 50,000 as advance for the purchase of a conveyance.

Officers of the Central Government drawing a basic pay of Rs. 3500 p.m. or above are eligible for the grant of an advance upto Rs. 80,000 or 16 months basic pay or the anticipated price of the motor car, whichever is the least. On second or subsequent occasions, the advance is restricted to Rs. 75,000 or 16 months basic pay or the anticipated price of the motor car, whichever is the least.

(b) and (c) There is no proposal, at present to increase the quantum of advance.

(d) Simple inteterest at such rates as may be fixed by the Government from time to time is charged on the advance granted to Members of Parliament/Officers of Central Government for purchase of motor car. Interest chargeable on such advance was 15 per cent during the year 1994-95.

(e) The Hon'ble Chairman of the Rajya Sabha or the Hon'ble Speaker of the Lok Sabha, as the case may be, may permit recovery of advance in lesser number of instalments from the Members of Parliament, if it is so desired. Central Government officers have the option to re-pay more than one instalment in a month.

New scheme under Income Tax Act

4340. SHRI HIPHEI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to introduce a new scheme providing for special procedures for assessment of search cases under the Income Tax Act;

(b) if so, details thereof with background;

(c) whether this scheme will be in the interests of people;

(d) if so, details thereof and if not, steps to be taken to make it beneficial for the people?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKARA MURTHY): (a) Yes Sir. The Government has proposed a new scheme providing for spe-